

AN EXACT
C O P Y
OF AN
EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE

Rev. Mr. M— and S— B—,

K

CONCERNING

THE LIVING OF A—;

Before the Publication of either Mr. K—'s or
the Rev. Mr. M—'s Narratives.

W I T H

A Design and Desire of gratifying the Public, answerable
to their repeated Demands on that unpleasant Subject.

L O N D O N :

Printed for G. PEARCE, at N^o. 12, in Cheapside;
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MDCCLXVIII.

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OF AN
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BETWEEN THE

Rev. Mr. M. — and S. — B. —

CONTAINING



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Before the Publication of either Mr. K. —'s or
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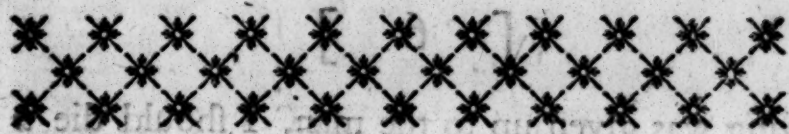
W I T H

Notes and References of various kind, and
to their respective Subjects on that subject.

L O N D O N

Printed by C. Parker at No. 10, in the Strand;
and W. D. B. at No. 10, in the Strand.

MDCCLXXXIII



AN EXACT

C O P Y

OF AN

EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

The Rev. Mr. M— to the Rev. S— B—.

Dec. 18. 1766.

DEAR SIR,

I HEARD a thing to-day from Mr. W. that has given me not a little uneasiness, as it reflects the highest dishonour upon yourself as well as upon me; that you dined the other day at Mr. T's. where was a mixed company, in which you was talking over the affair of A—, that you abused my character most infamously, by saying, that if I died before the living

living was given up to the man, I should die a *false rogue*. I must confess I am at a loss to reconcile this with the stile of your letters, and professions to me during the whole of this transaction, and is an expression so unlike Mr. B. that I am determined not to believe it, till you assure me of it yourself. Captain J. told it to Mr. W. as having passed a few days ago, in his hearing as one of the company. I hope this finds yourself and family well.

I am,



Dear Sir,

Yours most affectionately,

M—M—



S— B— to the Rev. Mr. M—.

DEAR SIR,

THERE is something so frank and friendly in your way of writing to me yesterday, that I cannot but admire it, and love you the more for it. That I love you at heart God knows, yes the world know it, and no man ever yet knew me, in word or action say or do that which run counter to it. It has been ever my concern, that (though innocently) I ever had any hand in the unhappy affair which has made so much noise, and given you so much pain. On both sides I have aimed to act the upright part, and never yet knew that on either side I had given just cause for suspicion of the contrary. It has been from the first to this moment my invariable opinion, that as to the living in question there either should have been a resignation, or compensation; and among others for this plain reason, as the neglect of it I foresaw would bring reproach on characters very dear to me; and the more I think, the more I see, the more I hear, I wish it had been done, I wish and pray yet it may be done;

done; but it is astonishing beyond measure, that language so contrary to the scholar, the gentleman, the minister, the friend, the christian should be charged on me, that I should say, that "if you died before the living was given up to the man, you would die a *false rogue*." This indeed as you say, "is language hard to reconcile with the stile of my letters and professions to you during this whole transaction;" and I thank you for adding, "tis an expression so unlike Mr. B. that you are determined not to believe it, till I assure you of it myself." Indeed, my dear Sir, tis language that I have in all companies resented—so resented, that I have been told again and again, that Mr. M. had deluded me. I have allowed, that I thought you in a mistake; but I never dared to allow that you was so knowingly, since all other instances of your conduct prove your honour, your humanity, your generosity, your christianity. But though the company I was in, was called a mixt company, it so happens, that every one were your very particular friends; Mr. B. Dr. and Mrs. F. Mr. T. Mrs. B. Capt. J. and myself, were the only persons present, to whom by mere accident on mentioning of Mr. N's. going to O. I was led to talk of that affair, which I never mention but with the deepest concern. Now rather than to vindicate myself, I refer you to all or any of them, to know whether directly or indirectly I used any such words as my own, and rather

rather whether it was not my evident concern, that the affair had caused many to reproach you. If I did use the words as my own, I now disavow them: if I did, I am ashamed of them: if I did, I sincerely ask your pardon for them: if I did, I must be in a dream: if I did, I spoke contrary to whatever I yet thought or spoke: but you will be a better judge, after you have heard what friends present may say of the conversation. I think for myself, that certainly the Capt. misapprehended me, and undesignedly misrepresented me, and I should have taken it friendly, if before related to you, our common friend Mr. W. had been so obliging as to have conversed with me. You have my best wishes, and earnest prayers for you and yours, and if I know my heart

I am Sir,

Yours sincerely and affectionately,

Mile-end, Dec. 20.
1766.

S— B—.

B

The

The Rev. Mr. M— to the Rev. S— B—.

Sunday Dec. 21. 1766.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

I SHOULD be greatly wanting in point of friendship, was I to let any opportunity slip, which could convey to you my entire satisfaction on reading the letter I received from you this morning, by the hands of Mrs. J. Think not, Sir, that I can doubt one moment whether you spake the words, or that I can think any inquiry necessary about the matter. What you say is conclusive evidence to me, that you did not, and the whole spirit of your letter has only added to the esteem and affection with which I am, dear Sir,

Yours most sincerely

and affectionately,

M— M—.

I hope to call on you soon. My kindest wishes attend Mrs. B. and your whole family.

S—

S— B— to the Rev. Mr. M—.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

YESTERDAY I had your very obliging and most affectionate letter, for which I heartily thank you, I am glad nothing yet has, and I hope nothing ever will, break in on our brotherly love and friendship. All I ever yet have said or done about the unhappy affair, and all I may ever do or say about it, I can assure you has been and ever will be, out of a tender regard to your character, and from a principle of humanity and integrity; and from the opinion I have of you, when this appears to govern all my conduct, I am sure still of your love and friendship. I thank you for the hope you give me of a visit, I shall truly be glad to see you, hardly expect you this week: if you should come, take it for granted it will not be on Thursday, and on Friday shall be out, but on Saturday shall be at home all the morning. I rejoice in the late appearances for your dear family. Mrs. B. joins with me in sincere respects to you, Sir, and Mrs. M. I am, Sir, as ever,

Yours sincerely and affectionately,

Mile-end, Dec. 23. 1766.

S— B—.

The Rev. Mr. M— to the Rev. S— B—.

Feb. 21. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

SINCE Mr. H. and I were with you yesterday, I have seen Mr. W. who mentioned to me your meeting K. and at the same time acquainted me with some things which I cannot understand, and which I must beg you to explain. In the first place, Mr. W. said, that you expressed yourself in the following terms with respect to K. before his face, "I have not at all altered my opinion of Mr. K. I have known him many years, and I do believe, as I have done ever since I knew him, that he is an *honest* good man." Again Mr. W. said, that you read my letter to you concerning Capt. J's. report, and your answer to me, and that you desired him, or the company, "to take notice, that your answer was properly *guarded*." What did you mean, dear Sir, by
your

your answer being *guarded*? I wrote to you in the simplicity of my own heart, and was much deceived if you did not answer me in the simplicity of yours. Have you any reserve, or double meaning, which I am not acquainted with? my heart, dear Sir, is sadly pained at all this, therefore let me hear from you upon the subject, as soon as convenient, and believe me ever desirous of putting the best construction on all you do and say, as I am

Yours most affectionately,

M—M—

XX

S—



S—B—to the Rev. Mr. M—.

DEAR SIR,

YOURS came safe to hand last night, but from the nature of the contents of it, and the painful suspicions you discover in it to have of my sincerity and integrity, my first resolution was not to write an answer, but to ask the favour of an interview to explain myself; but on more mature deliberation, I thought that would look unkind, ungenteel, unfriendly, and as if I had now said or done that which I could not vindicate or explain. Perhaps no one person in this unhappy affair, has had a more difficult or delicate part to act than I have had. I have prayed to the Lord to give me wisdom, and that in the whole I might act with simplicity and godly sincerity, make his word my rule, and his glory my aim, and I hope I may say, whatever have been the misapprehensions or misrepresentations of me, that I never have knowingly swerved from this. Compassion for Mr. K. whom I wished at first, and ever since, to see relieved,

has

has led me from first to last to aim, by every affectionate and respectful way in my power, to convince you of the propriety and the importance of it. Sincere respect to your person and character has led me uniformly to aim to ward off the many aspersions thrown on your character, as neglecting to relieve him, though frequently to the bringing reproach on my own character. In attempting two such very delicate affairs, Mr. K. is led to look on me as an enemy to him, and a friend to you, as I have at all times resented and opposed his very severe speeches against you; and now my friend Mr. M. thinks hard of me, nay suspects me of double dealing, because I cannot think or say the things of Mr. K. that he does. If you put yourself but one moment in my place, I think you will feel pity for me, especially if that love you have had for me, by your present apprehensions of me, is not lost. If you will but recollect the whole of my two last letters to you, and the whole of my conversation with you on Friday, and the desire I had honourably to accomodate this affair, then you will see I have not lost sight of my uniform design, to serve Mr. K. and to save your reputation — your reputation, which is as dear to me as my own. All this then is perfectly consistent, even with the very things you mention in your kind letter, where you evidently suspect me to be guilty of double dealings
and

and to have in what I say and do double meanings. Was this true I should deserve for ever to lose your friendship, for ever to be abhorred by mankind. Mr. K. has warm passions, has used very unguarded language, no man has reproved him for it more faithfully than I have done; Mr. M. himself could not wish me to speak closer things than I have done to him for it: but yet was Mr. M. in his distress, perhaps what by the power of corruptions, the devil's temptations and cruel insinuations, he might fall into the same snare. But I have never yet seen that in Mr. K. to dare to say, he is not an *honest* man, a *good* man: this I said before Mr. K. this I say to you, to the whole world. There was I thought a propriety, nay a necessity to read your letter to me about Captain J. and my answer to you, that Mr. K. and all present might know the high opinion I had of you, while I stood convinced of the propriety, in one way or other, of relieving Mr. K. And judge you, my dear Sir, whether I ought not to speak and write with a guard, when Mr. K. and yourself are so ready to insert in your narratives, what I may have said or wrote, so far as it tends on either side to vindicate your conduct. You know, dear Sir, you have thought it expedient to insert * a con-

* See in the printed narrative p. 16. at the top, though the letter refers only to a written one.

considerable part of one of my letters to you, which did indeed alarm me till I saw in what connection it appeared in your narration; since then I perfectly approve of your inserting it, as it stands in connection with that important period when you had a view to serve Mr. K. and I should take it kind, if in closing your narration, you would insert my two last letters to you, and then it will appear, that all along your character and Mr. K's distresses have regulated all my conduct, and shew you and the world, that there have been no double dealings, no double meanings; but that in all I have said and done, serving the distressed, and aiming to secure and repair injured characters, have been my constant endeavour. If, my dear Sir, all this is not sufficient to explain to you my words and actions I am ready to do it further by letter, or by conversation before any persons of honour and character approved by you and me; for to pain you, pains me, and should be glad to do any thing in my power to give ease to your mind, to maintain a place in your esteem, so that it can be done with maintaining my own character as a man of humanity and integrity. I repeat my plea made on Friday, that you would once more think whether a publication of your narration, or aiming to save a man from ruin in some way consistent with your own honour, will not be the best: if you publish, so will Mr.

C

K

K. that will oblige me to publish also, that will bring on further altercations, and all will tend to hurt religion, divide friends, and to employ time and paper, in a way little to the promotion of the glory of God, the good of fellow creatures, fellow christians, or ourselves. I have this morning, and I do daily pray, that the Lord may give you that wisdom profitable to direct, and I am, my dear Sir, as ever,

Yours sincerely

and affectionately,

Mile-end, Feb. 24.
1767.

S— B—.



The



The Rev. Mr. M— to the Rev. S— B—.

K— Feb. 25. 1767.

DEAR SIR,

THERE are few things which can give me more pain, than to have a suspicion of the sincerity of my friends, especially those with whom I have the honour to be united in the bonds of the gospel. It was this drew from me my last letter, and I think it incumbent on me in this, to explain further the motives which induced me to write. In the first place, I have more than once heard you say, you believed K. to be a *bad man*. I will remind you of two instances of this, one was when I came to your house in August last to propose leaving the matter to the bishop, in the course of that conversation you said, "I believe K. is a *bad man*:" my wife as well as myself remembers this. The second was, the night we met at the tavern, I

was urging the behaviour of K. as very unjustifiable, you said " I believe he is a *bad man*, but " I wish an end for that very reason could be put " to the affair." Again, dear Sir, must it not appear very extraordinary, that when you have so uniformly declared to me, as you did on Friday last, " That K. had charged you with " knowing that to be true which you know to " be false, that he had designedly misrepresented " ed facts and conversations; that he denied his " saying he was not an *injured* man, when you " know he said it in your presence;" I say must it not appear extraordinary, that you declare you never saw that in Mr. K. that could lead you to think him any other than an *honest* and *good* man? Can an *honest* man tell a direct and wilful lye for his own advantage, and this to the prejudice of another? Can an *honest* man deny his saying a thing, that he must know you heard him say in company, and that upon which the whole of the question turned? Can an *honest* man transfer speeches from one part of a conversation to another, in order to charge me and Mr. H. with deceit and treachery, when if left in their right place they would prove the contrary? are such the actions of an *honest* and *good* man? not to mention the whole spirit, turn and temper of that scandalous book which he has shown all over the town. Is there nothing in all this, Sir, to make

make you alter your opinion of Mr. K. as an *honest* and *good* man, or to justify your acknowledging him to be a *bad man*, and for that very reason urging an end being put to the affair? these things I own strike me very strongly, as proofs of K's being the reverse of what you declared to him before Mr. W. and account as I apprehend for the surprise I expressed in my last letter. As to your saying you *guarded* what you wrote, if you only meant thereby a proper caution observed, in an affair which might come before the public, there was certainly no harm in the expression, and I am infinitely more willing to believe this, than even to suspect the contrary. Ah, dear Sir, how often have we met as friends and taken sweet counsel together, how bitter is this to me, to be using my pen in altercation which I could wish to be employed to better purposes, and amongst the rest in assuring you of my being thoroughly convinced, that some way could be pointed out in which an honourable end could be put to this disagreeable affair. 'Till this happens I must contentedly bear whatever shall be said, knowing in my own conscience, that the advice I gave Mr. K. was such as I judged then, and do judge now to be alone consistent with the *honest man* and the *friend to religion*, and let those who judge otherwise point out a way in which

which Mr H. could have taken the oath, and taken the living for a limited time, and I will as readily own myself in the wrong as I now think myself in the right. I am, dear Sir, heartily wishing the Lord may give you and me a right judgment in this and all things else,

Yours very affectionately,

M— M—.



S—



S— B— to the Rev. Mr. M—.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

PARDON the liberty I now take in answering your last obliging letter, and then I purpose giving you no further trouble. I am conscious that the opinion you now have of me must make letters from me, once pleasant now painful; and therefore it would be indelicate in me to aim to maintain a correspondence with you. It was a pleasant moment when I had first the honour of your acquaintance. Your friendship I valued highly, perhaps too highly. This has led me to run great lengths to vindicate your conduct, in the very unhappy affair of Mr. K. nay to go so far that I have felt reproach severely; and now, the scene closes with forfeiting your friendship, and that with the heavy charge of want of sincerity and veracity. Judge, my dear Sir, at the pain
all

all this must give me, but I have one relief, and that is a clear conscience, added to this, the world bearing witness, that if I have given a more favourable representation on one side more than another, it ever has been on yours; though I own freely, I have aimed to speak impartially; where I thought you was wrong, to say so; where I thought Mr. K. was wrong, to say so. — I own, Sir, you have a stronger memory than I have, you are also happy in so putting facts together, that at first sight they wear an unfavourable aspect for me, and a more favourable one for you, acquit you and condemn me; but so far as I can recollect, I never positively said, at least in your sense, “that I believed “Mr. K. to be a *bad man*.” I have said “he has “a bad spirit,” and I say it now. I have heard you say again and again “that he was a *bad man* “in the worst sense of the word,” and I have inferred from it, that the worse opinion you have of him, and allowing for argument sake that he was a *bad man*, the more reason to do your best to finish the affair, in a way in which you might silence your enemies and gladden the hearts of some of your best friends: nay I own, that, sometimes for a moment, your representations of Mr. K. have confounded me, and perhaps in that moment I have been led to think and speak unfavourable

unfavourable things of him, which on cooler thought and hearing his defence I have ever seen reason to retract, and therefore it is hard to have you contrast my words as you do, and to make me a mere contradiction, a double meaning, a designing, a deceitful, hypocritical man. Whatever then I have thought or said, while I allow great imprudences in Mr. K. it would be too severe, too censorious, comparing all things together, to dare to say he is *not* an *honest*, a *good* man. For my own part, what from consciousness of so many personal imperfections, what from natural temper, and what from instructions from my bible, I am ever very careful of severe and censorious language about others, and ever wishing to put the most favourable construction on their words and actions; but, dear Sir, if you and Mrs. M. say that I said Mr. K. was a *bad man*, I have too much complaisance to deny it, only you will also allow every man to explain his own words, and I do say, (barring any sudden alarm by your representations, which he has ever cleared up) that I mean no more than a man of a *bad temper*, of a *hasty spirit*; the same answer I give to what I am supposed to have said at the tavern, and if I have any recollection it was only spoke by way of argument, “that if
 “ all this was true, then the more reason at once to

D

“ put

“put a period to the affair;” and then as to
 what was said at my house on the Friday, which,
 my dear Sir, I must think and say is drawn in
 your own language and far beyond my real senti-
 ments then or now, “that Mr. K. had charged
 “you with knowing that to be true which you
 “know to be false; that he had designedly mis-
 “represented facts and conversations; that he de-
 “nied his saying he was not an *injured* man when
 “you know he said it in your presence;” I al-
 low Mr. K. has said that I was witness to what
 I believe I was not, I am convinced that in
 some instances he has in my apprehension mis-
 represented facts and conversations; I own that
 he said he was *not* the *injured*, but the *distressed*
 man, the former of which he cannot recollect;
 now, my dear Sir, all this may be true and yet
 Mr. K. not a *bad* man; all this true and yet
 be an *honest* and *good* man; for deep distress,
 violent passions, and hurry of spirits may make
 a man sadly forget himself: this appears to me
 to be the case of Mr. K. but the word *design-*
edly which makes up the character of a bad man
 is your word not mine, at least I think so. But,
 my dear Sir, if free conversation is thus tortur-
 ed, if part of a conversation void of connection is
 thus treated, then no man living who is free and
 open with his friends, but may be represented as
 having

having double meanings, may be charged with contradictions : but, Sir, judge of me as you please judge of Mr. K. as you please, the fact is still the same. I came to you with Mr. K. hoping through your kind advice Mr. K. would be saved from ruin: but the issue has been, he is brought to ruin. I know nothing more of the affair, than that we parted with a design that an attempt should be made to obtain the bishop's leave for Mr. H. to hold the living for a limited time. That was not done, but Mr. H. was presented to the living; in all this, here was this unhappiness, that the affair was transacted with none present but Mr. K. Mr. H. and yourself. He comes back with assurances, that you well understood what he did; that tho' he ventured all on your honour, that sooner or later, as you knew his distress, he should have relief. Eventually he applies for relief, he does not obtain it; after this, as a man in distress has a promise of relief, but because some contradictions can be charged upon him, hard speeches proved against him, that relief is also withheld. Indeed, my dear Sir, the circumstances of his distress will ever, to an impartial world, make it evident there should be a resignation if possible; if that not possible, a compensation; so say five perhaps out of six of all who know the affair;

and that not only dissenters, but church-men; not only the profane, but the professor; those of all names among the Lord's people, the most eminent for their piety. If something is not done, Mr. K. and his family are absolutely impoverished, nay more than probable, Mr. K. will eventually be imprisoned, and such, my dear Sir, is the humanity of Britons, that they will pity him and reproach you; and indeed the more so as after all you have said, none can suspect you of giving the least countenance to purchasing of presentations, but that all you do springs from humanity—humanity to them, whom without design you have instrumentally brought to ruin; and I do think seven years hence it will give you pleasure that you had done it; on the contrary perhaps seven years hence deep pain that you had not done it: I wish then you would not be angry with, or ready to take up hard thoughts of those who mean you no harm; so far from it, that they wish you peace, honour and prosperity, temporally and spiritually: and I am sure of it, that I wish it for you, from the very bottom of my soul, yet was I now breathing my last, and could speak, and you was by my bed side, I would say, my dear brother, “be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good:” I would say, dear brother, for the
fake

sake of your own character, for the sake of hu-
 manity and christianity, try if something cannot
 be done to relieve the distressed; in doing it you
 will gladden the hearts of many of your brethren
 in the ministry, many of the Lord's people in
 private life, and prevent the reproaches of them,
 who ever watch for our halting. I only add, I
 still love and honour you greatly, and should
 ever gladden in honourable opportunities to ma-
 nifest it, as God is my witness. My friends,
 your friends, and the world too know, how much
 I have done it in this affair. Love to God, love
 to the gospel, love to you, love to the cause you
 have nobly espoused, and pity for the afflicted,
 have, I hope I can say, regulated all my con-
 duct; for personally what do I gain if Mr. K.
 gets relief? what do I lose if he gets none?
 Judge then, Sir, if any but such motives as
 these can possibly regulate my conduct; respecting
 which I dare to say, "my rejoicing is this, the
 "testimony of my conscience that in simplicity
 "and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom,
 "but by the grace of God, I have had my con-
 "versation in the world, and more abundantly
 "to you wards." I will not cease praying for
 you, allow me to ask the same of you, as the best
 way to recover esteem for those who innocently
 offend, and at last Sir, may we meet where all
 offences

[30]

offences are over, and all will be love and
praise. I am with respects to Mrs. M.

Yours most sincerely

and affectionately,

Mile-end, March 3. 1767.

S—B—.

P. S. Wednesday March 18. I am to remove
to Stepney-causeway, where I shall ever be glad
to see you, or hear from you if agreeable.



F I N I S.

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